

Bowser's Natural History

But His Writing Will Never See Print.

By M. QUAD.

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After Mr. Bowser had smoked awhile after dinner he blandly said to Mrs. Bowser:

"There was a gentleman in the office this afternoon who gave me a bright idea, and I have started to act upon it."

"You are always acting upon somebody's bright ideas," she replied, with a little sarcasm in her voice.

"Oh, well, if you are going to talk that way at the beginning we won't talk at all."

"But I want to hear about the bright idea. You are always looking for it, and perhaps you have struck it this time."

It took Mr. Bowser two minutes to get over the little jar to his feelings, and then he said:

"The gentleman told me that there was a new magazine coming out. It is to be called the Naturalist. Its contributors are to be paid 40 cents a word, which is the highest price any contributor was ever paid. Two words and a half, Mrs. Bowser, represent \$1. When a man can write a 500 word contribution in an hour, perhaps you will agree that it is rather a bright idea."

"I certainly will," replied Mrs. Bowser. "You interest me. Please tell me all about it."

Mr. Bowser pursed his lips, put on an air of great dignity and took from his pocket a manuscript and unfolded it. Then he said:

"After the gentleman left the office I turned to and dashed off the following article. It came to me as easy



THE RABBIT AS A SWIMMER.

as grease, and it reads to me like a dream. Listen closely, Mrs. Bowser, and do not interrupt me. My subject is the rabbit, and here is what I wrote:

"The rabbit is found in every part of the United States.

"He is a white and gray animal about as large or a little larger than the cat.

"He is a very harmless animal and no incident has yet been recorded where he has attacked a human being.

"The principal diet of the rabbit is beefsteak and smoked ham, but when pressed by hunger he will eat cranberries, sour apples and potatoes. Cases have been known where he filched and carried off from a house mince pies and strawberry shortcakes.

"That the rabbit might some time want to climb a tree after chestnuts, nature made his fore legs much the longest that they might reach around the trunk of a tree.

"The mother rabbit brings forth thirty-two offsprings at a birth, and therefore there is not much danger of the rabbit becoming extinct for a long time to come.

"The rabbit has been known to follow a country schoolma'am for three miles on the highway in broad daylight, but he offered her no violence and was probably actuated by curiosity alone.

"A rabbit can run at the rate of fifty miles an hour when pursued by a dog. When pursued by two dogs his gait is double that of course.

"Rabbits have been known to swim across a lake three miles wide.

"If a quart of sweet cider is placed at the back door at night two or three rabbits will come and drink it all up before daylight, and they will be found a short distance away in such a state of intoxication that they can be gathered up without trouble.

"The alleged rabbit pie served out at hotels and restaurants is made only of mutton and is an insult to Bunny and should be stopped by the law.

"A rabbit has been known to live to the age of eight years, but he was owned by an old maid who fed him on taffy and gave him a feather pillow to sleep on. The average life may be given at four years. At the end of that time he has had fun enough to be glad to go.

"The rabbit fur can be so dyed that a garment made of it can be called otter, beaver, lynx, mink or sealskin, and the animal is not praised as he should be.

"The rabbit has no tail to speak of. Nature made him thus that he might

not be caught and held fast while going through the thickest of thorns.

"His large ears were placed on his head for ornament, the same as a mule's.

"Any one carrying a rabbit's foot around in his hind pocket is sure to have good luck."

Mr. Bowser silently folded the manuscript and returned it to his pocket and looked at Mrs. Bowser and asked:

"Can you deny that the gentleman gave me a bright idea and that I have not worked it up to the best advantage?"

"Mr. Bowser," said she in reply, "you might have both hind pockets and all other pockets in your clothing stuffed full of rabbit's feet and they would not be sufficient to get that article accepted even by a family almanac!"

"By George, woman, what are you saying?" he exclaimed.

"Keep cool, sir—keep cool! Don't go to shouting or gesturing or getting unduly excited. If the editor of the Naturalist should ever receive such a contribution and he had a supply of pens and ink handy and had a little time to write, he would answer:

"It is estimated that the rabbits of the United States pull down and devour at least 1,000 persons a year.

"No rabbit was ever yet known to eat mince pies. They prefer custard pies.

"The hind legs of a rabbit are the longest, as you ought to have known. They were made thus that he could climb a tree wrong end to and be all ready to come down again with promptness and dispatch if alarmed.

"You are mistaken about the number of offsprings at a birth. It is 150 instead of thirty-two. This is that the rabbit may in time crush out all the beef trusts.

"No rabbit was ever satisfied with running fifty miles an hour. He started right off the mark at a pace of 125. If there were two dogs after him he went so fast that the human eye could not detect him.

"All the rabbits in Ohio and Michigan swim across Lake Erie twice a day for the fun of the thing.

"No rabbit with any self respect would get drunk on sweet cider. You must set out old rye or dry champagne.

"Your rabbit pies of the restaurants and hotels not only contain mutton, but beef hash, ham hash, veal hash or other kinds of hash. The rabbit needn't feel insulted at the name.

"Nature did not give the rabbit a tail because he was the last animal made and there were no tails to spare.

"A rabbit was given large ears not for ornament, but that he might hear all the gossip going on in the woods. You may have observed many women with ears almost as large.

"As to rabbits' feet bringing good luck, more than 10,000 men are drowned every year with their pockets stuffed with the tokens. Better carry around with you the tip of a donkey's tail."

"That's what he would think of your bright idea, Mr. Bowser," said Mrs. Bowser as she finished.

Mr. Bowser sat with his mouth half open and the glare of a ferocious panther in his eyes, but he answered never a word.

"You had better have written of the rhinoceros in Africa, for you know as much about him as you do of the rabbits of the United States."

There was a decided twitch to Mr. Bowser's ear like a horse that is trying to make out a sound.

"We have three different works on natural history in the house, and yet you have never opened one of them. You broadly state that his fore legs are the longest. Our butcher has half a dozen hanging outside of his door every day. One glance of your eyes would have told you that you were wrong. All the other statements in your article are equally as absurd. In fact, Mr. Bowser—"

"Yes, my lady, in fact!" repeated Mr. Bowser, as he rose up and started for the hall tree.

"Are you going out?" was asked.

There was no answer. Mr. Bowser got into his overcoat and hat and banged the front door after him. He was not going to hunt the ferocious rabbit nor let the rabbit hunt him, but he wanted to walk and think over that bright idea which the gentleman had so kindly given him and which Mrs. Bowser had jumped on with both feet. As he walked he brought up at the drug store on the corner. He didn't enter the store, but stood outside humped over as became a forlorn husband. The druggist saw him through the window and came to the door and asked:

"Bowser, is there anything wrong?"

"Naw," was the gruff reply.

"I thought there was, old man, from your looking so used up. I think I am right. I think you and Mrs. Bowser have had a discussion, and you have come out of it with the loss of one leg, as usual. Go home, Bowser—go home and be glad that you have got such a smart wife."

Wrong Suit.

"But," she objected, "you're a Jack of all trades."

"Then art the queen of my heart," he reminded her, "and the queen takes the Jack."

Refusing, however, to be impressed with this argument, the maid insisted on a new deal.—Judge.

Nothing Wrong.

"I want to lick my teacher," I hear a young chap say. I looked upon the creature With traces of dismay.

"A fine ambition truly," I muttered to this lad. "To find one thus unruly Is very, very sad."

"Oh, put your jaw in plaster," The lad replied with vim. "I meant my boxing master; It's all right to lick him."

—Kansas City Journal.

STING OF THE AGY.

A Madagascar Plant That Can Drive Men Mad With Pain.

Among the many peculiar and disconcerting plants and creatures that abound in Madagascar, probably none is more surprising and disconcerting than the agy tree, so called, which is not a tree, but a climbing plant. The following incident, quoted by Mr. James Sibree, F. R. G. S., in "A Naturalist in Madagascar," illustrates the painful result of contact with the agy. The story is told by a Mr. Montgomery:

Walking under some trees and pushing aside the reeds and grass, I was startled by a sudden tingling and prickling sensation over the backs of my hands and fingers. I stopped in sudden surprise, for the pain was severe, and I had touched nothing except the grass. But in another minute the pain increased, the tingling, burning sensation seemed to be extending rapidly up my wrists, and I could see nothing to cause it. As I lowered my head to look scalding pain shot into my ears and neck and grew worse every instant. Dazed and bewildered, I stood a few seconds in helplessness, for I could neither see nor guess at the cause of the terrible distress. Then I got back to my company with agony written plain enough on every line of my face.

The men started up when they saw me, crying, "You have been stung by the agy!" Some of them led me to a seat, others rushed for water from the river, and two or three brought sand heaped up in their hands. Then they chafed me with the sand and water to take out the stinging hairs, which they knew caused the mischief. As they rubbed me I felt the pain abate, and after they had chafed me for about a quarter of an hour I was comparatively free from pain. While the men were rubbing me I was able to discern to some extent the cause of my distress. Countless hairs, like tiny arrows, almost transparent, pointed at either end and from a third to a fourth of an inch long had dropped on me in an invisible shower from the agy tree as I stood under it. Before I came away that afternoon, very cautiously, I ventured to examine the tree at a little distance and found that the tiny hairs grew outside a thickish pod or sheath not quite so large as a small banana. The pods were fully ripe (unluckily for me) just at that time, and the light wind was scattering their coverings.

STORY OF A MEAN MAN.

The Millionaire Who Refused a Loan to Alexander Dumas.

"The meanest man I ever knew," said Mark Twain to a fellow traveler he met on shipboard, "lived in Hannibal. He sold his son-in-law the half share of a cow and then refused to give him any milk because he had only sold him the front half."

Well, that story may be apocryphal, although there are lots of men who rise to its standard of meanness, but the following is true: When Alexander Dumas the elder was short of cash he wrote a charming little note to a millionaire who was proclaimed in every paper to be a model of generosity. Dumas ended his letter with some verses, half jocular, half serious. In fact, the letter was a literary gem.

This financier, who respected literary men for their talents, but had little trust in their power or will to pay their debts, refused Dumas' request. The same evening he entertained some men of letters at his mansion, and the conversation turned on the value of autographs.

"Have such trifles a commercial value?" asked the millionaire.

"Certainly," replied one of the guests. "A letter by Hugo or Lamartine or Gautier is more than worth its weight in gold."

"And a letter by Dumas—this one, for instance?"

"I will give you 5 louis for it?"

"Agreed!"

And that generous, dattered millionaire financier, who had been making bargains—and nothing else—all his life, sold for more than 100 francs the letter of Dumas, whom he had refused to oblige in the morning. Could meanness go further?—Pearson's.

One Way to Cut Brass.

To cut sheet brass chemically the following method meets with great success: Make a strong solution of bichloride of mercury in alcohol. With a quill pen draw a line across the brass where it is to be cut. Let it dry on and with the same pen draw over this line with nitric acid. The brass may then be broken across like glass that has been cut with a diamond.—Exchange.

Recommendation Not Necessary.

"*So you're going to leave us, Mary?" "Yes, mum. I've got to."

"And do you want me to give you a letter of recommendation?"

"It ain't necessary, mum. The man I'm going to work for is willing to take chances. I'm leavin' to get married."—Detroit Free Press.

The Spirit of Charity.

"I'm awfully sorry that my engagements prevent my attending your charity concert, but I shall be with you in spirit."

"Splendid! And where would you like your spirit to sit? I have tickets here for \$2.50, \$5 and \$10."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Touching.

She—Your friend Jims was here this morning asking for you and told me such a touching story. He (absentmindedly)—For how much?—Baltimore American.

AN ORDINANCE

Limiting the Quantity of Alcoholic Liquors or Beverages Any Person May Order, Receive, Keep, Store or Deliver in One Calendar Month, Regulating the Quantity, Fixing the Place of Storing and Keeping—Regulating Its Use—Exceptions, Etc., in the City of Union, S. C., and Penalties for Violating.

Be it Ordained by the Mayor and the Aldermen constituting the City Council of the City of Union, S. C., now met in Council assembled and by authority of the same:

Section 1. Liquor Ordering, Receiving, Bringing into City Over One Gallon in One (1) Month.

That from and after the 1st day of January, A. D. 1916, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or agent directly or indirectly to order from any point without or within the City of Union, or to receive within the City of Union or to bring into and within the City of Union, any quantity of alcoholic liquors or beverages containing over one (1) per cent alcohol for any use or purpose whatsoever in any package, vessel, bottle, jug, demijohn, or other container, totalling in amount any quantity exceeding one (1) gallon, within or during the calendar month in which it is ordered, received or brought in.

Section 2. One Gallon Liquor Per Calendar Month. That from and after the 1st day of January, A. D. 1916, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or agent, directly or indirectly to bring into this City for any person, firm, corporation or agent, any quantity of liquors as mentioned in section one (1) herein, and deliver or cause to be delivered to any person, firm, corporation or agent any liquids as mentioned in Section One (1) herein, in any total amount or quantity exceeding one gallon in all in the calendar month of delivery or bringing in or ordering.

Section 3. Third Party Delivering over one gallon: It shall be unlawful on and after the 1st day of January, A. D. 1916, for any person, firm, corporation or agent under any pretense, false pretext or fraudulent designs of any kind to make delivery of any package containing liquors or alcoholic beverages containing over one per cent alcohol of any kind to person, firm, corporation or agent in amounts exceeding one gallon violating any portion or part or provision of section Nos. 1 and 2 herein.

Section 4. Keeping and Storing One Gallon and Under: It shall be unlawful on and after the 1st day of January, A. D. 1916, for any person, firm, corporation or agent to keep and store in any place within this City any liquors or alcoholic beverages as mentioned in Section One (1) herein, in any quantity exceeding one (1) gallon, and that no place or depository of any such liquors or beverages in any quantity from one (1) gallon and lesser quantities shall be lawfully kept or stored excepting in the private living room or home of the true owner thereof.

Section 5. Exceptions to One Gallon Law: Provided nothing in any section or the provision of any section of this ordinance shall be held or construed to curtail or prevent the ordering, the receipt, the delivery, the transportation or the selling and storage of alcohol as are provided for and in accordance with sections 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807 and 808 of the Criminal Code of 1912 of the State of South Carolina, and any amendments thereto, and by order of Court and constituted authority.

Section 6—Penalties: Any person, firm, corporation or agent guilty of violating any part or provision of any section of this Ordinance shall in the discretion of the Trial Judge be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100) or to serve not exceeding thirty (30) days on the chain gang at hard labor. Done and ratified in Council assembled this 9th day of December, A. D. 1915, at Union, South Carolina.

L. C. Wharton, Mayor.
J. H. Schoppa, Alderman W. 1
O. E. Smith, Alderman W. 2
R. R. Berry, Alderman W. 3
S. R. Lybrand, Alderman W. 4.

Attest:
W. D. Arthur,
Clerk City Council (Seal) 51-3t

A fool is happy in his folly he shed worry. Very few wise men are as lucky.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.

From January 1st to February 20th, 1916, the County Auditor's books will be open for making returns. All who are liable to taxation will please see to their returns are properly made. Or personal property is returned this year, except where real estate has been transferred from one party to another. In such case please state on turn of bought or sold, and how much and to whom.

Will be in office all January except as noted below:

Archie, Tuesday, January 18th.
Antuck, Wednesday, January 19th.
Benesville, Thursday, January 20th.
Buffalo, Friday, January 21st.

On March and Ottaway, Tuesday, January 25th.

Union Mills, Wednesday, Jan. 26th.
Bekhart, Thursday, Jan. 27th.
Barnsburg, Tuesday (morning) 28th.
Kelton (evening) Jan. 28th.

Will be in office from 29th January to February 3rd.

West Springs, Feb. 4th.
Ross Keys, Wilburn's store, in the morning of Feb. 8th.

Dallia, (Minter's store), evening Feb. 8th.
Boshen Hill, Feb. 9th.

J. S. Betenbaugh,
County Auditor.

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"Thedford's Black-Draught is the best all-round medicine I ever used," writes J. A. Steelman, of Pattonville, Texas. "I suffered terribly with liver troubles, and could get no relief. The doctors said I had consumption. I could not work at all. Finally I tried

THEDFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT

and to my surprise, I got better, and am to-day as well as any man." Thedford's Black-Draught is a general, cathartic, vegetable liver medicine, that has been regulating irregularities of the liver, stomach and bowels, for over 70 years. Get a package today. Insist on the genuine—Thedford's. E-70

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EXCURSION RATES

VIA SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

Account Christmas Holidays.

The Southern Railway announces very low round trip fares account of the Christmas holidays, tickets to be sold December 17th to 25th, inclusive, with final limit returning to reach original starting point prior to midnight January 10, 1916. For detailed information apply to local agents or communicate with S. H. McLean, District Passenger Agent, Columbia, S. C. 50-4

NOTICE TO TRESPASSERS.

All parties are hereby notified not to hunt, fish, ride, walk or in any manner trespass on the lands known as Hopkins Smith place, the David Gist place and the Lewis Jacks place, located in Santuc and new in our possession.

David Gist,
Lewis Jacks,
Douglass Smith.